

S/N: 10/019,810

PATENTREMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-3, 6, 7 and 11-18 remain pending. The limitation in claims 1 and 7 concerning the ratio of end carboxyl groups to end amino groups is supported by Examples 5 and 2. The limitation in claims 1 and 7 concerning the amount of end carboxyl groups is supported by Examples 6 and 3. The limitation in claims 1 and 7 concerning the structural unit of the resin is supported by original claims 5 and 10.

Claims 1-17 have been rejected as anticipated by Witcoff, and claims 1-18 have been rejected as obvious over Witcoff. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Witcoff discloses a material that has an acid number of at least 50. See col. 2, line 34. This is far greater than the amount of end carboxyl groups per kg in claims 1 and 7. The 170 mmol per kg upper limit in claims 1 and 7 corresponds to an acid number of 9.5. Witcoff neither discloses the material claimed in claim 1 or used in the process of claim 7. Nothing in the present record provides any reason for modifying Witcoff to develop a material with a lower acid number. Therefore, Witcoff neither discloses nor suggests this aspect of claims 1 and 7.

Witcoff also fails to discuss any particular ratio of end carboxyl groups to end amino groups. Example 1 at col. 3, lines 38-39 mentions an acid number of 86.5 and an amine number of 4.3. The resulting ratio is 95.26/4.74 when determined on the basis of 100% in total as in the present claims. This is outside the range required by claims 1 and 7, and Witcoff neither discloses nor suggests this aspect of claims 1 and 7 as well.

The present invention provides an aqueous dispersion of polyamide particles in which aggregation of the particles is inhibited. Thus, the dispersion enjoys superior stability and the particles remain minutely dispersed. This has been demonstrated amply through the Examples and Comparative Examples reported at pages 15-21 of the specification. Witcoff in no way suggests that these advantages could be achieved.

S/N: 10/019,810

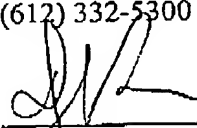
PATENT

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

Date: Feb. 3, 2004

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. No. 30,300  
DPM:gmd

**23552**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE